WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Garment Exports

*381. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that India's garment exports are declining;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to boost the export of garments; and

(c) what are the details of exports of garments during the last three years, country-wise and the amount of foreign exchange earned thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) India's garment exports have generally been increasing.

A Statement showing steps taken by Government to boost exports of garments is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* Statement-I).

(c) Another statement showing exports to major importing countries is also laid on the Table of the House. (*See* Statement-II).

Statement-I

The following main steps have been taken by the Government to boost garment exports :—

(1) CCS rates have been substantially increased with effect from 1-1-1984. These rates are being continued in the current year.

(2) Import entitlements under REP licences have been liberalised. Some items of raw materials/fabrics are permitted to be imported under the Advance Licensing Scheme and Duty Free REP Scheme.

(3) Under the 100 per cent Export Oriented Units and Free Trade Zone Schemes, facilities for liberal import of capital goods and raw materials along with many other concessions are given with necessary export obligation.

(4) Foreign collaboration is allowed to modernise indigenous textile machinery to enable exporters to have access to modern machinery. Sophisticated machines not manufactured indigenously are allowed to be imported on OGL. As many as 114 machines necessary for garments and hosiery manufacturers have been placed under the OGL, 97 of them enjoying concessional Import Duty.

(5) Government has announced introduction of new Import-Export Pass Book Scheme for manufacturer-exporters under the new Import-Export Policy.

(6) Government has been pursuing the proposal for setting up a fashion Design Institute. It is expected that this will start functioning from next year.

(7) Government has been giving additional assistance for new products and new markets.

(8) Government has been giving liberal assistance for sponsoring and funding promotional activities such as market studies, Buyer Seller Meets, participation in international fairs and exhibitions, etc.

(9) The new Textile Policy envisages a number of measures for restructuring and modernisation of the textile industry which are also designed to improve the competitive ability of our products in the international market.

Statement II

Major Importers of clothing from India 1982, 1983 *and* 1984

(Provisional)

(*Value in Rs. Crores*)

Country	1982	1983	1984
U.S.A.	138·49	225·88	291·46
E.E.C.	249·13	216·71	280·94
U.S.S.R.	117·14	73·27	105·70
Canada	16·22	21·46	43·51
Japan	18·33	14·33	23·65
Switzarland	17·90	20·33	17·69
Sweden	12·88	13·20	16·03
Others	63·48	54·95	71·12
TOTAL	633·57	640·13	850·10

(SOURCE: A.E.P.C.)

Storage Capacity of the STC

*385. SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during June/July, 1984 the State Trading Corporation decided to cut down the storage capacity for imported edible oils;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there was depression in the international edible oil market at that time;

(c) whether in pursuance of its storage policy, the S.T.C. could not purchase/import/store edible oils in sufficient quantity during the depression period;

(d) whether it is a fact that three months thereafter the STC imported edible oils at higher prices prevailing in the international market thereby losing a huge amount in foreign exchange; and

(e) if the answer to parts (a) to (d) above be in the affirmative, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) International oil prices declined in July, 1984 and remained around that level till September, 1984 in most varieties of oil.

(c) to (e) STC purchased edible oil during July 1984 to September 1984, when the prices in most varieties of edible oils were lowest, as well as during earlier and subsequent months based on import requirements of the domestic market and no loss of foreign exchange was involved in these imports.

Racket in the Central Warehousing Corporation

*386. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in the *Statesman* on the 29th